

Earby
Urban District Council.

REPORT


OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

From JANUARY 1st, 1919,
to DECEMBER 31st, 1919.

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EARBY URBAN DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report

For Year Ending, December 31st, 1919.

To the Chairman & Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the district for the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

During the years of the war Health Administration has not been kept up to its previous level, and it has been impracticable to supply Special and Annual Reports dealing fully with matters affecting the health of the community. The time has now arrived for Public Bodies to make up this deficiency and it behoves your Committee to closely devote their attention to all matters affecting Public Health, to stimulate public interest in these matters, and to direct and frequently confer with your Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Staff in the discharge of their duties, and thereby to be able to fully and promptly direct a successful Local Health Administration.

NATURAL & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Area of the District is 3519 acres and the Rateable Value is £22,000. The Population was 6,032 at the Census of 1911 and the Estimated Population at the present moment is 6250. The district is made up of the Urban parts of Earby and Kelbrook with the surrounding agricultural district, the Altitude varying from 430 to 1175 feet. The populous area lies in a valley with hills on both sides, but higher on the Eastern side, and the main Colne to Skipton road passes through the valley. The whole area drains into the valley, and as the fall from South to North is comparatively little, frequent flooding of Earby occurs, and makes the drainage of that populous area difficult and unsatisfactory from a health point of view. The subsoil is mostly clay which does not assist in the system of drainage. The inhabitants are mostly employed in the Textile Trade—the principal occupation being Cotton Weaving. The outside of the district is devoted to grazing and dairy farming. The conditions in the weaving sheds are fairly satisfactory, except that the recognised commencement of work is 13 years of age for

both boys and girls and this reflects in the future development of a mill type of not too robust a build and constitution. The war with its accompanying military training had a marked effect on the physique of the young men, who themselves recognised the benefit of fresh air, regular meals and exercise, unobtainable whilst following their employment as weavers. Employment has been regular and there has been little necessity for poor relief except in the case of those too old or unfitted for the long hours and close work of the mills. There is no Hospital in the district and those requiring hospital treatment are mostly sent to Burnley as being nearest, whilst Leeds and Bradford Royal Infirmaries occasionally take necessary cases.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The figures of population supplied by the Registrar General were 6473 for the purpose of birth rate and 6214 for that of death rate, and my statistics are based on these figures and the number of births and deaths supplied at the same time. These numbers are approximately correct and nearly correspond with the records supplied by the Local Registrar and the records of inward transferable births and deaths. The number of births supplied was 67 (M., 37; F., 30)—of these 4 were illegitimate males. This gives the low birth rate for the year of 10.3 per 1,000 population. The nett number of deaths was 73 (M., 34; F. 39), a death rate of 11.9 per 1,000 population. Of these deaths 11 occurred in residents outside of the district. 8 children (7 M., 1 F.) of one year and under died during the year, equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 119. The age and cause of death of these is given below:—

M., 3 days, Premature Birth	}	7
M., 7 days, Spina bifida		deaths
M., 1½ days, Premature Birth		at
M., 1 day, „ „	}	one
M., 2 days, „ „		week
M., 12 hours, Congenital Malformation of Heart		and
F., 6 hours, „ „ „	}	under.
M., 8 months, Gastro Enteritis		

The number of still births for the year was 6.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply. The water supply is derived from the gathering ground on the uplands of the Eastern side of the district and is controlled by two private companies for Earby and Kelbrook respectively. The quality of the water supplied is good and throughout the year the supply has been sufficient for the needs of

the district. Curtailment of supply during night hours was enforced for about 8 weeks during the year. No filter beds are provided and in times of storm, surface water finds its way into the supply and affects the purity of the water.

The Rainfall for the year was tabulated as follows :—

	Earby Sewage Wks. Ordinary Gauge Inches.	Earby Sewage Wks. Self-recording Gauge Inches Hours	Higher Burnt Hill Ordinary Gauge Inches.
January	5.97	5.53 137.45	4.46
February	1.46	1.38 42.0	1.12
March	5.35	5.18 108.10	4.30
April	2.06	1.92 35.40	1.65
May	1.77	1.71 38.85	1.69
June	1.38	1.29 26.65	1.11
July	2.01	1.90 32.25	1.99
August	2.92	2.79 40.60	3.22
September	2.06	1.88 35.30	2.07
October	2.25	2.15 42.90	2.20
November	3.04	2.84 55.85	2.96
December	5.70	5.28 79.90	5.11
	<hr/> 35.79	<hr/> 33.85 <hr/> 675.85	<hr/> 31.88

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

A complete system of sewerage and drainage exists. There has been an entire absence of pollution of rivers and streams. The Sewage Disposal Works are situated about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below Earby and since the completion of the new scheme in 1915 have been able to deal with the volume of sewage. I have tested the effluent on several occasions and found it satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION.

The water carriage system exists in the populous areas, whilst at the farms and outlying houses, privy middens and pail closets are in use, the cleaning of which has been regularly and properly attended to.

SCAVENGING.

Scavenging is carried out by tender for the district of Earby and outside districts, except that the Council Staff is responsible for that of Kelbrook village. This has been found to work quite satisfactorily and few complaints as to inefficiency have been received. No ashpits have been abolished during the year. Refuse is disposed of at tips for Earby and Kelbrook and these have been found to be satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Inspections have been systematically made with a view to discovering nuisances. The number of notices served was:—

Statutory 20 Informal 10

These notices were served for the abatement of the following nuisances :—

Statutory	{	To cleanse drains, W.C's.	11
		To cleanse dirty houses and bedding ...	2
		To remedy defects, Factory conveniences	7
			<hr/>
			20
Informal	{	To cleanse drains & W.C's.	5
		To repair defective roofs and yards ...	2
		To empty manure tank	1
		To repair ashpit	1
			<hr/>
			10

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF SANITARY WORK COMPLETED
DURING THE YEAR ENDED DEC., 31ST, 1919.

Number of complaints received	0
Number of Inspections, Houses and Premises	1891
Number of Informal Notices served	10
Number of Informal Notices complied with...	10
Number of Statutory Notices served	20
Number of Statutory Notices complied with...	29
House Drains repaired and cleansed	22
Privies and Water Closets repaired and cleansed	19
Waste Pipes repaired	7
Ashpits or Ashbins, new, provided	4
Ashpits repaired	2
Filthy houses ordered to be cleaned	2
Unsound Food—Seizure and Destruction	19
Houses Disinfected after infectious disease ...	200
Schools Disinfected after infecfious disease	6
Slaughter House Inspections (4 Licensed) ...	52
Bakehouse Inspections (13 Registered)	80
Dairies, Cowsheds & Milk Shop Inspections	
(29 Registered)	115
Factory and Workshop Inspections (65 Registered)...	250
Defects in Factories and Workshops remedied ...	17
Plans approved	9

Plans disapproved	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Houses built	...	..	...	...	...	0

- JAS. E. ALDERSLEY,

Inspector of Nuisances.

There are now no offensive trades carried on in the district and no lodging-houses nor underground sleeping rooms exist.

SCHOOLS.

The surface drainage and back play-ground at Riley Street School were found defective. This was remedied in the early part of the year and is now satisfactory; otherwise the sanitary condition of the schools has been good and the water supply was satisfactory. Schools Closure was enforced at New Road Infants School and at Riley Street Infants School from November 11th, to December 8th, 1919, owing to an epidemic of measles and before the re-assembling of the pupils both schools were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.

FOOD.

The Milk Supply for the district is adequate and the milk has been wholesome and good. Dairies and cowsheds have been inspected during the year; their condition is not satisfactory nor has any advance towards cleanliness been observed. No action was taken by the local Authority under the Milk (Mother and Children) Order, 1918.

Slaughter Houses. There are 3 slaughter houses used in the district. These are of an old, insanitary type and are quite inadequate for the number of butchers using them. Inspections have been carried out but control over them is difficult and it is essential that slaughtering should be done in one building of a modern type with sufficient room for slaughtering, cooling, etc., and which could be satisfactorily and constantly supervised by a Council Official. During the year several frozen carcasses were condemned as being unfit for human consumption. No tuberculosis was noticed in the animals slaughtered during the year.

Bakehouses. The bakehouses registered, numbering 13, have been regularly inspected and have been found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Factories and Workshops have been inspected and have been found to be in a good condition and no smoke nuisance was observed.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of notifications under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act was :

10 Diphtheria

10 Scarlet Fever

169 Measles (notified by Medical Practitioners).

The zymotic death rate was 0.6 per 1000 population. All Diphtheria cases were treated at home and a sufficient supply of antitoxin was available for the use of Medical Practitioners in the district at all hours. Of these cases, two proved fatal after a few days illness. Two cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to hospital for treatment as isolation and nursing could not be carried on satisfactorily ; the remaining 8 cases were treated at home by injunction and there were no deaths. A return case was noted after the home-coming of one of the children after 8 weeks in hospital.

Pneumonia. 11 cases of Pneumonia were notified with 3 deaths.

Influenza was prevalent in February and March and was responsible for 7 deaths. It was noted that infectivity of this disease was most marked in the small and old type of houses in the district. In many cases whole families were prostrated and much hardship was met with.

Malaria. 1 case of Malaria was reported. This was contracted abroad and the case was sent for special treatment.

Measles. A severe epidemic started towards the middle of October, 1919, and continued up to the end of the year. It occurred mostly in children aged from 3 to 8 years and was of a moderately severe type. Strict supervision of all cases was carried out and Nurse Westwell visited all cases throughout their illness. Only 2 deaths occurred, and as I consider approximately 300 children were affected, it shows the benefit of compulsory notification of this disease where supervision of all affected cases was easy and was certainly appreciated by the parents of the children.

Whooping Cough and Chicken-Pox. A few cases were noted during the year but neither disease became epidemic.

Tuberculosis. 8 cases were notified during the year and of these, 4 were sent for Sanatorium treatment. 2 cases in an advanced state died : 1 left the district ; and one with tubercular neck glands improved and was able to resume employment. The Tuberculosis death rate was 0.3 per 1,000 population. Advantage was taken of the West Riding Bacteriological Laboratory for the diagnosis of Tuberculosis and Diphtheria.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Nurse Westwell was appointed for this purpose with other duties in October, but as a centre could not be obtained her services were requisitioned for the Measles epidemic up to the end of the year. There is no Certified Mid-Wife in the district and I consider that the district is sufficiently large to have one available. It would certainly be safer for the expectant mothers and would relieve the medical practitioners of the district of their obligation to attend every case of confinement—normal and otherwise.

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified and the eyes of the affected child were not permanently injured.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION STAFF.

The Nuisance Inspector has charge of the whole district. He is also Surveyor to the Council and has 1 assistant and a boy apprentice for that department of his work.

HOSPITAL ACCOMODATION.

There is no hospital for infectious diseases in the district. Throughout the year cases of Scarlet Fever for Hospital treatment have been accepted at Skipton Isolation Hospital. A scheme for a Joint Small-Pox Hospital is at present under consideration by the several Sanitary districts of the Skipton Parliamentary Area and will probably be proceeded with in the future.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions in the District. The total number of houses is 1520, and the number for the working classes is 1380. No new houses have been erected during the year and there are none in course of erection. The population at the end of 1919 was estimated at 6,250 and any material increase in that number is not expected in the near future. All houses suitable for the working classes are occupied and little over-crowding has been observed nor is expected. An extension of the Grove Shed is in process of construction. When completed it will find employment for at least 100 workers. This will necessitate about 30 new houses and in the contemplated scheme for the erection of 100 houses in Stoneybank Road these have been included together with 70 new houses to replace old property in Aspen Lane, Wesley Place and Island Square areas which are getting below a reasonable standard, and several in these areas are obstructive and will ultimately have to be demolished. The general standard of housing in the district is fairly good. The older dwelling-houses however are not entirely satisfactory, having been allowed to deteriorate by the owners and

often through the negligence of the tenants. The principal defects noted in this type of house are structural—defective eaves and troughing, insanitary yards, uneven floors, damp out-kitchens and often general dirtiness of interiors. In this class of house, a free circulation of air throughout is essential and the tenants in many cases do not realise this. 17 houses were inspected and reported on during 1919; of these 5 were found to possess minor defects and after the service of notice to remedy, these were made fit for habitation. 1 house was found not reasonably fit for human habitation and notice has been served to execute work to the satisfaction of the Local Authority. The remaining 11 houses were found totally unfit and Closing Orders were made accordingly. 7 of these have been demolished voluntarily, 3 closed as totally unfit for human habitation, and the unfit house at present occupied will be closed as early as possible. No representations of obstructive buildings had to be made. The Summary of Housing Work for 1919, is shown in detail in County Table D (a copy of which is supplied with this report).

The Sanitary Inspector is also Housing Officer and with the assistance of an apprentice attends to that duty as occasion arises.

In conclusion, I have to thank MR. ALDERSLEY, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, and his Staff for their assistance and co-operation throughout the Year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER FALCONER,

Medical Officer of Health.

